

Presenting the
Class of 2024

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO **THE ST. CLAIR TIMES**

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ASHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



**Ashville Valedictorian
Joshua Stevens**



**Ashville Salutatorian
Kaitlin Hudson**

Ashville High School Class of 2024:

Harrison Kristopher Auth
Caroline Elizabeth Ballard
Samuel Dewayne Battles
Peyton Wayne Bentley
Ashley Kay Boatwright
Jada Kathryn Bothwell
Rhett Lee Bowlin
Jacob Scott Cash
Elvia Brigette Cerrato-Ramirez
Zahkiyla Izaria Cook
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Bryan Tobie Duran

Caleb Lee Gargone

Aaron Cole Garvich

Brayden Keith Gaskey

Shannon Dylan Gilbert

Rachel Brooke Goodlin

Macie Michelle Gabriel

Green

Walker Thomas Griffith

Brian Josue Gutierrez

Ryan Matthew Harris

Tyler Ray Harris

Antuan Myree Herron

Kaitlyn Danielle Holt-Bolls

Kaitlin Nicole Hudson

Cristobal Isaiah Humphrey

Serenity Lashae Jester

Caleb Nathaniel Johns

Aden Nathaniel Jones

Justin Valdez Jones

Taylor Susan Knight

Breanna Kaitlyn

Kowalewski

Andrew Jacob Layfield

Jamika Kayleen Jean Lee

Augustine Stanley

Lemons

Riley Ann Matthews

Ryan Christopher

Matthews

Kelton Preston Mayfield

Shuntear Lamar McCain

Mark Gaike McCurry

Kian Scott McLoughlin

Jake Austin Morton

Kasey Caroline Muir

Jake Lee Newton

Molly Claire Northam

Ramon Ortega-Nava

Kamren Eliah Palmer

Bruce Pantoja

Kendall Andrea Phillipson

Kayla Grace Poplin

Chloe Jean Ragsdale

Tristan Michael Ray

Yadhira Reyes-Lopez

Austin Ray Reynolds

Natalia Diosmarie Rivera

Lesleigh Josaphine

Rogers

Cheyann Marie Sims

Hayden Lane Sluss

Garrett Reid Spears

Joshua David Stevens

Abigail Marie Talley

Sarah Brooke Thomason

Aubrey O'neal Thornton

Ethan Javon Turner

Anthony Wayne Tyler

Gracie Ray Griffin Vining

Laney Claire Washburn

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LEEDS HIGH SCHOOL



Leeds High School Class of 2024:

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Abercrombie

Abelina Sophia Adkins

Reed Daniel Agan

Alexa Alvarez

Sadie Elisabeth Anthony

Anna Grace Armstrong

Jaxon Mateo Armstrong

Myles Dion Belser

Tony Lee Bernklau

Noah Oliver Bishop

Richard Merritt Bishop, III

Aurora Blundetto

Jackson Harris Bowen

Adrienne LaDelle Brown

Cortlyn Kristine Brown

Christian Dewayne Burge

Korria Denise Burton

Kidd

Christopher Morris Byrd

Rhyan Nyelle Maxine

Carson

Clifford Marcel Chester

Colton Stealh Cockrell

Haley Grace Cockrell

Congratulations Class of 2024

For your graduation, we'd like to say how proud we are of your achievement! We wish you the best of luck as you take the next step on your journey, and every happiness along the way.

Among its various contributions to the Leeds community, the LWWB is also a quality financial resource for local education.

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Vice Chairman

Mike Hall
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Leeds Water Works Board

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LEEDS HIGH SCHOOL

Hayley Shea Courington	Robert Hunter Ford, III	Eduardo Gonzalez Cordoba
Breann Elise Cunningham	William Carter Ford	Kamrin Allie Gortney
Nathan Xavier Davis	Nathaniel Wolf Forester	Josie Alexandra Grimes
Nicholas Tyrek Davis	Oliviah Grace Freeman	Mia Jamea Grimes
Noah Maleek-Lamar Davis	Daniel Andrey Frolov	Jacob Andrew Grizzle
Isaac Paul Deason	Jackson Troye Frontine	Lindsey Danielle Grizzle
Hayley Cheyanne Dodson	Logan Riley Fuqua	Jeremiah Hall
Dylan Michael Dyson	Trinity Elizabeth Gaddy	Chrisley Marie Harper
Steven William James Ezekiel	Nelsy Jackelin Galvan Jimenez	Cameron Desean Harris
Angus Pate Falgout	Madelina Lynne Garrett	Jalen Deonte Harris
Tikem Ke'Mon Fitts	Elaina Marie Gault	Kalei Marie Harris

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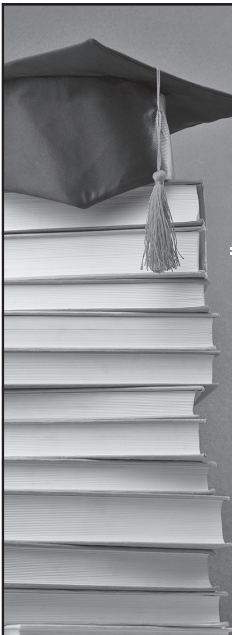


LEEDS HIGH SCHOOL

Meagan Nicole Harris
Kavion Dominique Henderson
Anthony Alan Heritage
Sean Xavier Hicks
Megan Ann Hill
Shelby Lynn Holliday
Katelyn Paige Howard
Memory Grace Hughes
Jonathan Andrew Hume
Katia Brizeyda Jimenez-Santiago
Maria Teresa Jimenez
Kailyn Grace Mechele Jones
Kaylie Marie Kessler
Kylie Marie Kessler
Audrey Ellen Kirksey
Timothy Joseph Klis
Alesyia Denise Lee
Elijah Semaj Lewis
Sophie Claire Lewis
Nathan Wayne Linderman

Kevin Reece Lockhart
Landon Chase Loera
Camron Isaish Maddox
Misael Mancilla Moreno
Alan De Jesus Mata Solis
Ashlynn Zakiyyah Mayfield
Jacob Boyd McClendon
Benjamin Andrew McCormick
Marcus Shane McKinney, Jr.
Julia Elizabeth Meeks
Ray Anthony Middlebrook, Jr.
Ronald Dewayne Miller, Jr.
Brandon Alexander Mitchell
Cindy Vanessa Molina Vazquez
Kathryn Sara Moore
Nolan David Moore
Jonathan Alexis Navarrete Ramirez
Dennis Nathaniel Navarrete
Resendiz
Diego Fernando Navarro-Delgado

Langston Bishop Packer
Daniel Pavon-Guadarrama
Sebastian Pavon-Guadarrama
Madeleine Claire Payne
Aniya Celise Pearson



**CITY OF
LEEDS**

Congratulations
**Class of
2024**



You made it! We are proud of each and every graduate for their accomplishments. We hope your graduation is full of fond memories. We wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

David Miller
Mayor

Kenneth Washington | Eric Turner | Johnny Dutton
Angie Latta | Devoris Ragland-Pierce

000312713r1

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**CONGRATULATIONS
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Pictured: Miani Burton - Saks High School; Peyton Whitelaw - Donoho; Ja'Miah Heard - Oxford High School; Dylan Martin - Weaver High School; Dakota Frank - Munford High School; Charity Davidson - Homeschool; Jackson Hill - Oxford High School; Caleb Walker - Jacksonville High School; Emma Turner - Munford High School; Sarah Edwards - Oxford High School; Gracelyn Tidwell - Lincoln High School; Timothy Mayes - Faith Christian School; Alexis Tarrance - Alexandria High School; Logan Smith - Munford High School; Alexis Lynn - Alexandria High School; Gina Sparks - Oxford High School; Jacob Haynes - Piedmont High School; Gavin Barnes - White Plains High School; Joshua Henry Simning - Jacksonville High School; Cameron Almon - White Plains High School; Landon Carroll - Oxford High School; Kaelyn Crossley - Oxford High School; Tatum Starling - Oxford High School; Raven Leftwich - Alexandria High School; DaMonte Sinclair - Jacksonville High School; Brady Laros - Pleasant Valley High School; Chase Truitt - Oxford High School; Anthony Bothwell - Saks High School; Dontavious Jordan - Piedmont High School; Ava Smith - Donoho; Diya Patel - Oxford High School; Peyton Webb - Donoho

Not Pictured: Cori Austin - Cleburne County High School; Ellamae Kines - Weaver High School; Aiyanna Cannon - Saks High School; Jakarian Jackson - Anniston High School; Berkley Mooney - Oxford High School; Shayla Murray - White Plains High School; Joshua Baker - Oxford High School; Christian Hess - Alexandria High School; Brody Moore - Donoho; Wyatt West - Welborn High School; Joshua Todd - Saks High School; Jason Wallace Jr - Donoho; Luke Gable - Oxford High School; Nathan Carney - Munford High School; Austin Winton - Munford High School; Andrew Freeland - White Plains High School; Zykiah Kirksey - Anniston High School; Samantha Cash - Jacksonville Christian; Cassidy Arnold - White Plains High School; Ian Cartwright - Alexandria High School; Kenzie Magouryk - James Clemons High School



2024

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Dax Avery Phillips
John Wesley Pilkington
Bethany Claire Pittman
Samuel Dale Poe
Evelyn Rashel Poroj
Taylor Braeden Pulliam
Jennifer Resendiz Basilio
Aubree Lane Ritch
Julian Alexander Reed
Audrey Claire Roberts
Reese Trinity Roberts
Micheal Anthony
Rodgers
Payton Noel Romei

Jayla Gabrielle Rose
Andres Sainz Puente
Devin Dewayne Sanders
Teara Renae Sanders
Charles Wade
Satterwhite
Zachary Tyler
Schrecongost
Calvin Jon Schubert
Hunter Dewayne Scott
Kevin Serrato-Rodriguez
Katelyn Ann Marie Sims
Leyah Marie Smith
Kaylin Grace Stallings
Joseph Wyatt Stone

Cayden Asher Strong
Ke-Monica Nashae
Strozier
Jack Barry Tipton
Samantha Jean Trivette
Caiden Amarion Turner
Joshua Daniel Walker
Caiden Alexander White
Jackson Elliot Whitehead
Brooklyn Trinity Whitfield
Elijah Newman Whitfield

Dane Jurgen Wichmann
Colton Reid Willcutt
August Marie Williams
Clayton Wyatt Williams
A'nadyia Monae' Wimes
Mallorie Katelyn Wray
Gregory Jermaine
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Brandon Alexis Zapeta
Tzul



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The stories behind popular graduation traditions

Graduation is steeped in tradition. Come the day of graduation, many grads-to-be might be focusing on receiving their diplomas and then celebrating after the ceremony. The hard work students put in affords them every right to celebrate once they're officially anointed as new grads, but before the party begins it can be fun to reflect on the many traditions associated with graduation ceremonies.

Cap and gown

Graduation ceremonies simply wouldn't be the same without caps and gowns. The tradition is anything but new, as Columbia University notes caps and gowns have been linked to academia since the 12th century. Back then, students wore gowns and hoods to emulate the clergy who taught them, but also to stay warm. Many universities dressed their scholars in gowns from the 1700s onward. In 1786, one school, Brown University, even mandated that

degree candidates be clad in flowing robes and caps at commencement ceremonies. Though educators and students may no longer wear caps and gowns when attending class or around campus, the tradition of doing so at commencement ceremonies has endured.

Tassel turning

The tradition of turning the tassel does not have the lengthy history of the cap and gown, dating back only decades rather than centuries. Graduates typically turn the tassels after everyone has received their degrees during the ceremony. The turn is symbolic of their transition from student to graduate. Tassels start on the right for high school students and college undergraduates and are then turned to the left, while recipients of master's degrees and doctorates keep their tassels on the left throughout the commencement ceremonies.

Tossing caps in the air

The tossing of graduation caps in the air is believed to date back more than 100 years. Prior to 1912, graduates of the United States Naval Academy had to serve as midshipmen for two years before they were commissioned as officers. As a result, they still needed their graduation caps. But beginning with the class of 1912, graduates were automatically commissioned as officers, so they no longer needed their hats. That led the graduates to throw them in the air, thus beginning one of the more fun and photo-worthy graduation traditions.

Pomp and Circumstance

This tradition marked by the playing of Pomp and Circumstance is rooted in the work of William Shakespeare, which makes it seem like a perfect fit for graduation ceremonies. Sir Edward Elgar composed Pomp and Circumstance in

1901 and the title for the song was inspired by a line in the bard's Othello. Elgar received an honorary degree from

Yale University in 1905, and during that ceremony Pomp and Circumstance was played. The song apparently made a strong

impression, as it soon began to be played at various commencement ceremonies, a tradition that continues today.



Celebrating the Bright Future Ahead of You

Today's graduates are tomorrow's leaders, and we're filled with hope and pride as you celebrate this milestone achievement and take the next step.

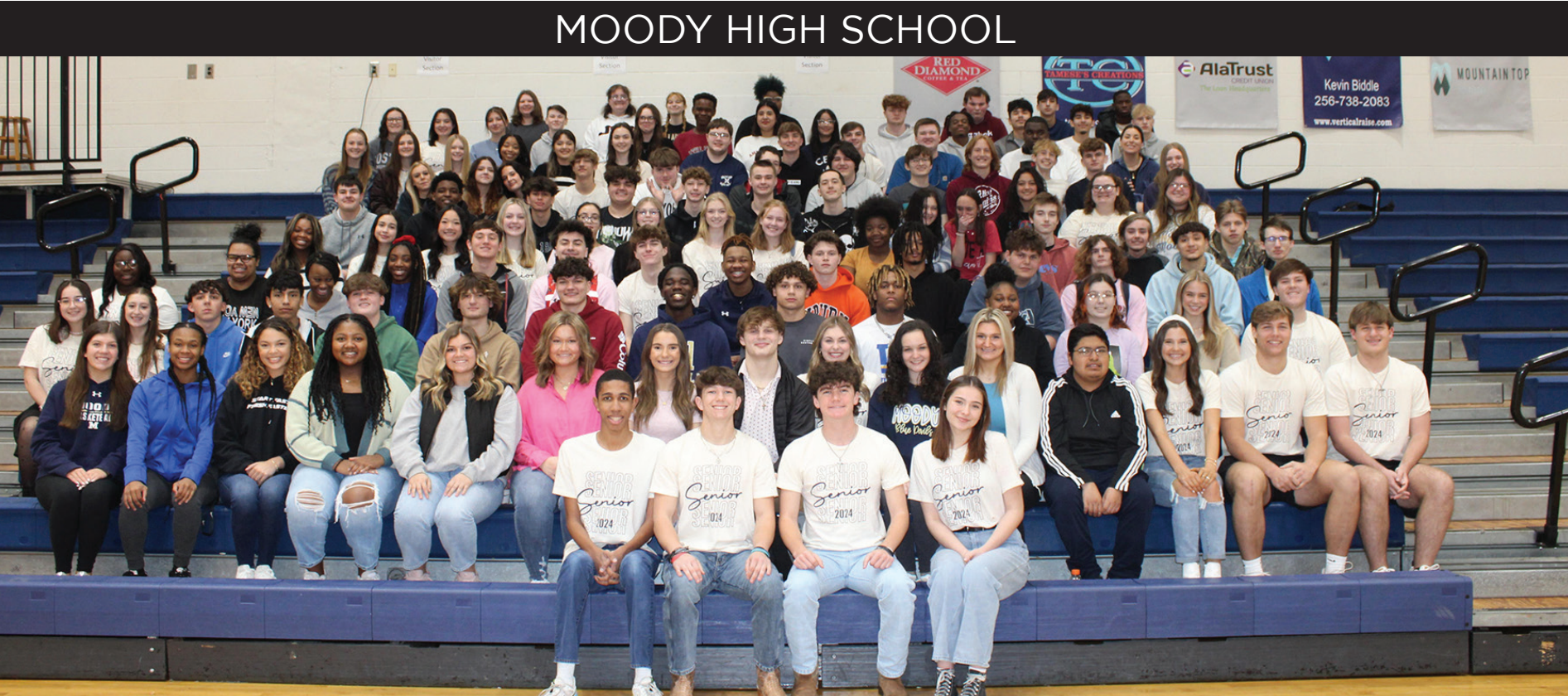
May you always remember the importance of hard work, integrity and kindness in your future roles and endeavors. Congratulations, best wishes and thanks for giving us so much to celebrate!

Marie Manning
State School Board - District 6



Paid Political Ad: Marie Manning - 22700 US Highway 231, Ragland, AL 35131

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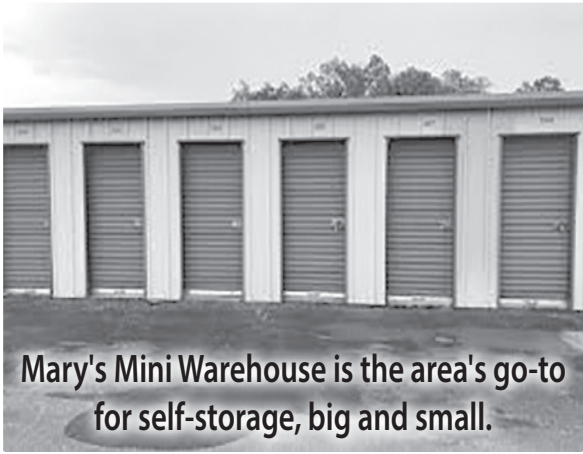


**The Moody High School
Class of 2024:**

Emma Alexis Akins
Emily Rae Armstrong
Christopher Grant Atkinson
Nichalous Gavyn Baker
Emma Claire Bishop
Hayden Daniel Bowman
Andrew David Brown
Tylan Blaine Burke
Rylee Berlynn Butler
Lilly Rain Calvin
Marcus James Carre'

Emma Kate Charlson
Keren Eunice Chavez Ramirez
Angela Chen
Silas Nathan Cherry
Alexzander Blaise Clowdus
Scott Freeman Colley
Bailea Summer Cote
Emily Michelle Courington
Anne Marie Cox
Nathan Bryan Cox,
Shaun Tyler Eugene Crews
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Marshall Evan Dickerson,

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William ShannonFarley
Madison Leigh Finney
Dalton Christopher Fletcher
Charity Elizabeth Gelpin
Erica Rose Gill
Juliet Faith Glidewell
Philip James Golden
Skylar Edward Shane Gomer
Mary Noel Grames
Colby Lewis Graves
Kira Lashae Green
Jacob Riley Hadaway
Ashley Grace Hale
Jarrod Khamari Hall
Logan Jackson Hall
Manna Michelle Hanson
Caleb Fulton Harris
YamiletteHernandez-Herrera
Libby Grayton Higgins
Gavin Chase Hill
Ryleigh Grace Hodges
Ryleigh Roo Hope
Abram Nathaniel Jackson
Avery Marie Jackson

Chase John Jackson
Colton Marshall Jackson
Kaila Cyndrella Jeffries
Brynn Martin Jenkins
Aden Paul Johnson
Isaiah Joel Johnson
Connor Alexander Keenum
Camden Scott Kennedy
Jake Riley Kirkland
Charles Ryder Kitts
Briquon Rayshad Lambert
Amon Neshard Lane
Lucy Ann Marie Lang
Grant Leo Long
Anna Elizabeth Lovell
Dalton Edward Lowden
Gavin O’neal Lumpkins
Juliana Rose Mabrey
Antonio Carlos Madison
Osvaldo Mancilla

Joseph Ryan Marczewska
Sawyer Allan Marlowe
Yeshua Marti Martinez-Mendoza
Emma Lauren McCarrell
Joseph Wesley McCrory
Tawon Markey Meadows
Noah Anthony Mejia
Cami Ryan Merchant
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What's the difference between valedictorians and salutatorians?



Being named a valedictorian or salutatorian is a significant achievement. Some students may not fully understand what these titles represent. Every school has its own qualifications, but in general, valedictorians and salutatorians are those individuals who have reached the very highest levels of academic success.

Valedictorian

PrepScholar, a standardized testing preparation company, indicates that the valedictorian is the student who graduates with the highest cumulative grade point average of his or her class, the average of every year's final grades. Grades from advanced placement classes are weighted to account for their rigor and extend extra points toward the GPA. Some schools do not immediately award the title to the highest-ranking stu-

dent. They may ask students to apply for review and then consider various factors, including grades, level of academic program, essay submission, and even contribution to school and community life.

Salutatorian

Certain schools may have one salutatorian, while others may have two or more. The college guidance resource Transizion says the salutatorian is usually the individual ranked second in the graduating class. A salutatorian will deliver the salutation, otherwise known as the opening speech of the graduation ceremony. The valedictorian speaks later in the program.

High-ranking terms

In addition to valedictorian and salutatorian, students also may become familiar with other terminology, including class

rank and cum laude recognitions.

Class rank refers to a student's GPA in relation to other students in the same grade. Class rank may be an actual number, such as ranked 30 out of 900 students, or a percentage like the top 5 percent of the graduating class.

Cum laude is a Latin phrase that means "with praise/honor." Educational institutions use one of three phrases to signify academic degrees that were awarded with honor. The phrases usually are utilized by colleges and universities. Schools have different criteria that must be met for these honors. Summa cum laude is the highest level of distinction, magna cum laude is next and that is followed by cum laude.

It is a great honor to be named valedictorian or salutatorian, and it is an honor worth celebrating at graduation and beyond.

*Congratulations
Class of 2024*

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you want...just set your heart and be
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Miriam Anne Newman
Zoey Isabella O’Keeffe
Akira Leigh Osborne
Noah Emory Owen
Mallory Raquel Padgett
Prycelis Ahmaad Perdue
Colin Rafe Pilkington
Kayleigh Marie Puskar
Victoria Chenise Pyles
Christopher Aiden Read
Aidan Tyler Robinson
Landon Barry Rogers
Hannah Faith Rutledge
Julitsa Sanchez
Margaret Elizabeth Sargent
Tristan E. Sheridan
Ava Grace Sivley
Mackenzey Sheyenne Smith

Matthew Talan Smith
Zane Russell Smith
Benjamin Joseph Snell
Cameron Jack Speigle
Emma Elizabeth Staggs
Tierney Nyionna Stallworth
Aiden Thomas Stark
Kendall Mckindley Stephens
Makiah Alyse Stevenson
Elizabeth Mae Strealy
Aaliyah Gabriel Marie Swain
Thomas Wallace Taylor
De’Kyra Rochelle Tolliver
Leah Bella Trammell
Bryton Kain Usrey
Maricarmen Vergara Garcia
Kyndal Oakleigh Vines
Connor Rylan Waites
Lela Danielle Waites
Carter Ellis Waldrep
Jalen James Walker

Raegan Makenzie Watkins
Stephanie Nicole Watson
Mary Agnes Westmoreland
Bevin Grace Williams
Braden Luke Williams
Denise Demetria Williams
Ava Yasmine Winslett
Jonathan Brian Woods

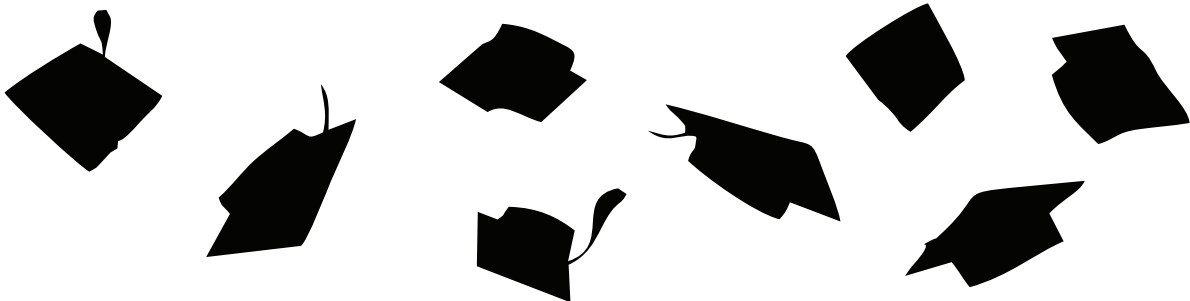
The City Of Moody
Honors All Our
Graduates



*Congratulations to all the
oustanding young men and women
of the Class of 2024.
We wish you much luck and
continued success as you strive
for the next goal.
Keep up the great work!*

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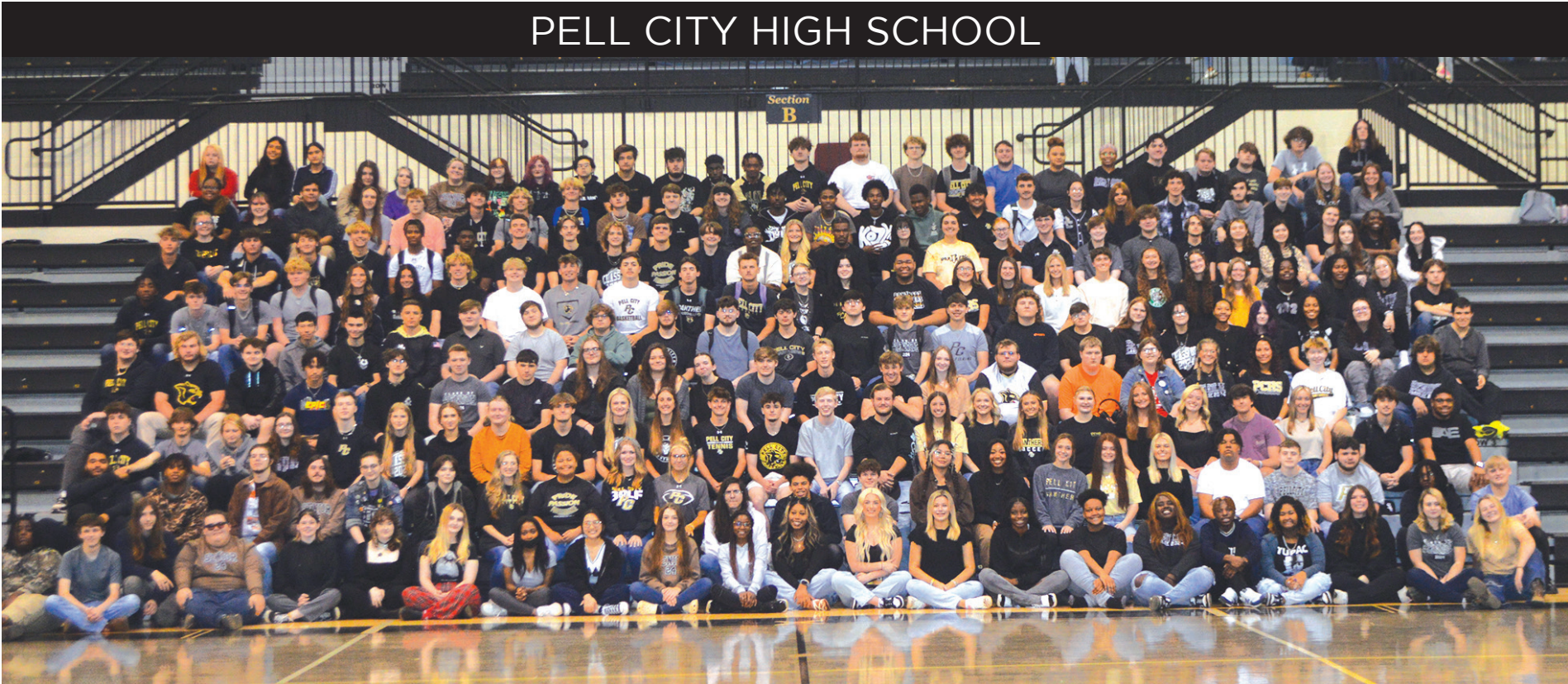
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**Pell City High School
Class of 2024:**

Caden Andrew Aldridge
Iyana Marshae Allen
Paulina Alonso-Gaspar
Randijah Nashea
Armbrewster
Bailey Sian Baker
Haley Lou Baker
Danny Michael Barber
Autumn Riley Barrett
Kimberly Denise Batson
Baylee Nicole Baxter
Briana Nicole Beavers

Markise Dewayne
Bedford
Braden Harris Bell
Joe Lucious Berry
Keely D'Michael Bivines
Mattison Hope Black
Sadie Laine Black
Jake Holland Blackstone
Valeria Blancas-Martinez
Ryleigh Nicole Boling
Madison Grace Borger
Alayla Iyana Bowie
Dakota Sky Brannam
Abigail Ryan Brasher

Congratulations Class of 2024!



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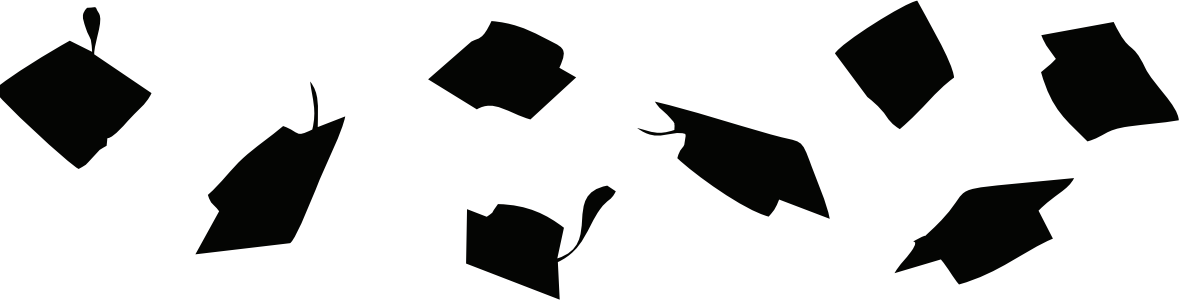
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Judith Matilee Bridgewater	Toney Joel Colley	Savanah Rain Erwin
Haleigh Marie Bright	Isabella Rosa Lynn Conditt	Joshua Lee Evans
David Carson Brohard	Sophia Claire Cook	Dalton Marshall Fink
Caleb Steven Bross	Poppy Mitchell Cooper	Jameson Brooks Forman
Ryder Luke Bryant-Griffin	Tarvarus Monqueil Cooper	Shalayaa Antoria Forman
Joshua Michael Burleson	Emily Christine Couch	Faith Delaine Franklin
Jesus Manuel Falcon Bustillo	Ruth Abigail Courson	Evan Noel Hudson Fulford
Ty'Shaun Lorentay Caldwell	Jacob Blake Crane	Melissa Marie Fulk
Keira Leigh Callender	Rylan Scott Paul Craton	Alixandria La'Shae Gallman
Melanie Nicole Calvert	Aiden John Crowson	Jackson McKinley Garris
Cristiana Alexis Cambron	Braden Carl Crowson	Briana Paige Gastley
Letitia Greenleigh Campbell	Mekhi Tyree Curry	Chloe Isabel George
Amy Rose Cardenas	Isabella Marie Danna	Bryant Anthony Akorede Gibson
William Parker Carlisle	Ayden Jonathan Davis	Emma Grace Gibson
Alyssa Corinne Carroll	Zachary David Dawson	Alexander Nicholas Gillis
Landon Seth Castleberry	Maxwell Jackson Dean	Hayden Matthew Jian Kun Ginn
Brennen Lee Champion	Maria Angela Delgado Flores	Carter Matthew Glass
Tatiana Faith Chaney	Caden Davis DeLoach	Mackenzie Grace Goulet
Benjamin Talmadge Chastain	Matthew Hunter Dickerson	Catlynn Brooke Graves
Feonia Erin Chen	Caden Luke Donahoo	Landon Emerson Green
Shaniya Latrell Clark	Destiny Nicole Duffie	Caleb Javon Groce
Emilyanne Mariam Cleveland	Dorian O'Dell Dunnivant	Gerardo Guerrero Trejo
Kaylie Madison Cline	Alex Maxwell Eason	Hunter Pierce Hahn

PELL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Marc Alen Dugaduga Halog	Brayden Keith Humphreys
Ashton Kade Ham	Jaxon Cole Humphries
Caden Phillip Hardy	Ashton Kole Hunter
Bradley Darian Harvard	Briana Shay Isbell
Ashton Wayne Harvell	Faith Marie Isbell
Bradley Cason Heath	Camren Joseph Jarrell
Robert Garrett Henderson	Bella Anne Jennings
Frank Nathan Higginbotham	Kennadi Jade Johnson
Garrison Wayne Hildebrant	Mark Conner Johnson
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Tavion James Hill	Kaden Reed Joiner
Olivia Kate Holloway	Markel Demond Jones
Margaret Ann Hooie	Taylor Madison Kendrick
Jeremiah David Horn	Dylan James Kielbasa
Mallory Dianne Horton	Zander Chase Lackey
Bret Harrison Houk	Brady Lee Laminack
Abigail Grace Houser	Tillman Joseph Landry
William David Howell	Robert Claud Lay
Caleb Mikhail Hoyle	Veronica Rae Lay
Haleigh Gabrielle Hughes	Ashton Maclaine Leavengood



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Landon Chase Potts
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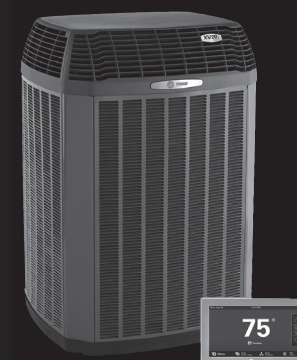
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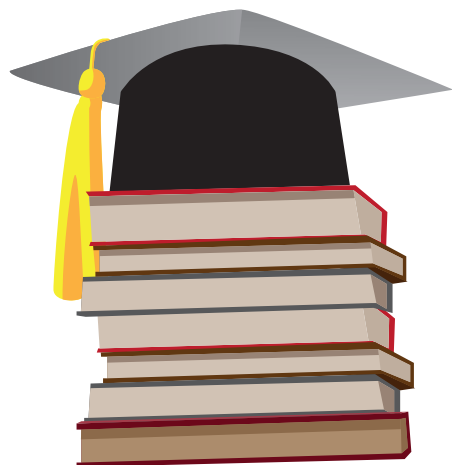
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Xavier Day
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Hayley Franklin
Sadie Gardner
Kandice Harrell
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Myata Horner
Jericho Kay
Kennedy Kay
William Lewis

Shelley Macon
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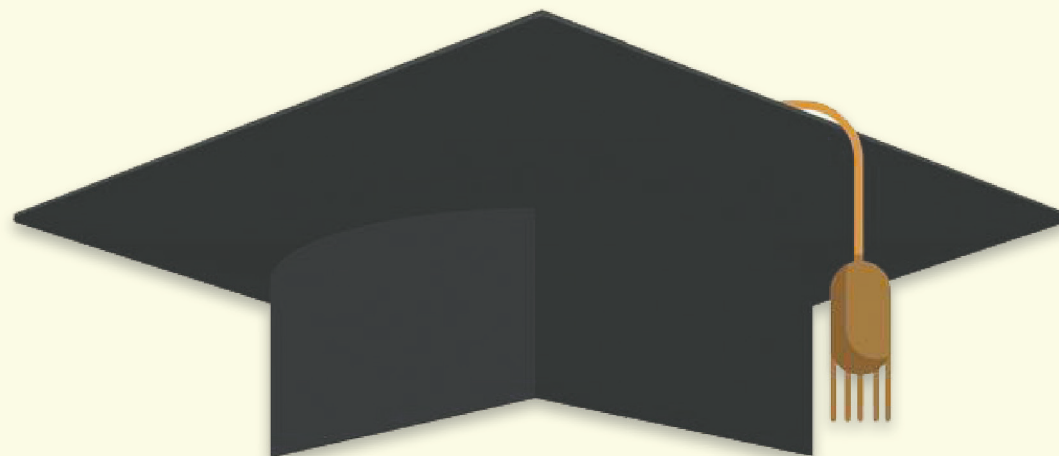
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Illustration of graduation caps and diplomas scattered around the text.

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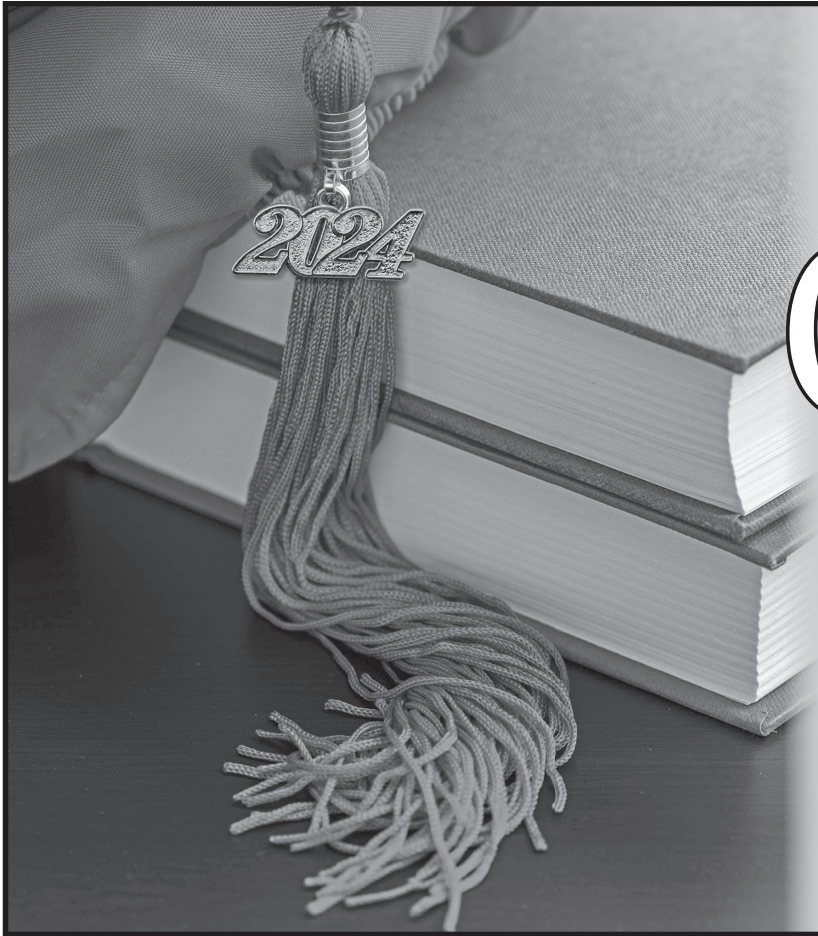


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Lizzie Bryant	Terry Clark	Ty Davidson	Untonio Evans
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Hayden Burke	Emily Clendenin	Elliot Denard	KaylieFortner
Bella Burns	Laurie Cobb	Ava Dickey	Kyndall Fortner
Anna Grace Butler	Scarlett Cofield	Drake Digiacomio	Daisy Fowler
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Zackary Caten	Jacob Cole	Timothy DuBose	Jazell Fuentes
Kaylee Chaney	Elijah Cooper	Hannah Edwards	Karson Gilmer
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Congratulations

Class of 2024

From the

City of

Springville

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Congratulations Class of 2024



Fortune favors the bold, and you will never know what you are capable of unless you try. Good luck and best wishes for your next adventure!



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Pete Harned
Hope Hayes

Rylan Heard
Braden Henderson
Benjamin Hettich
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Cade Wiggins

Cade Wiggins participates in Track and Cross Country. He is involved in Beta Club, Key Club, and SGA. He plans to study Computer Science at Auburn University.



Landon Godwin

Landon Godwin is involved in Beta Club, Key Club, SGA, and Chess Club. He plans to study Pre-Med at Auburn University. Cade and Landon will actually be roommates at Auburn.

You Did It Graduates!

Congratulations Class of 2024!

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to strive for greatness as you
embark on new challenges and
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Joshua Allen
Ashton Avant
Kaniya Barnes
Juliet Boone
Jesslyn Bowden

Adrian Brown
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Joshua Brown
Noah Burgett
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Congratulations Class of 2024

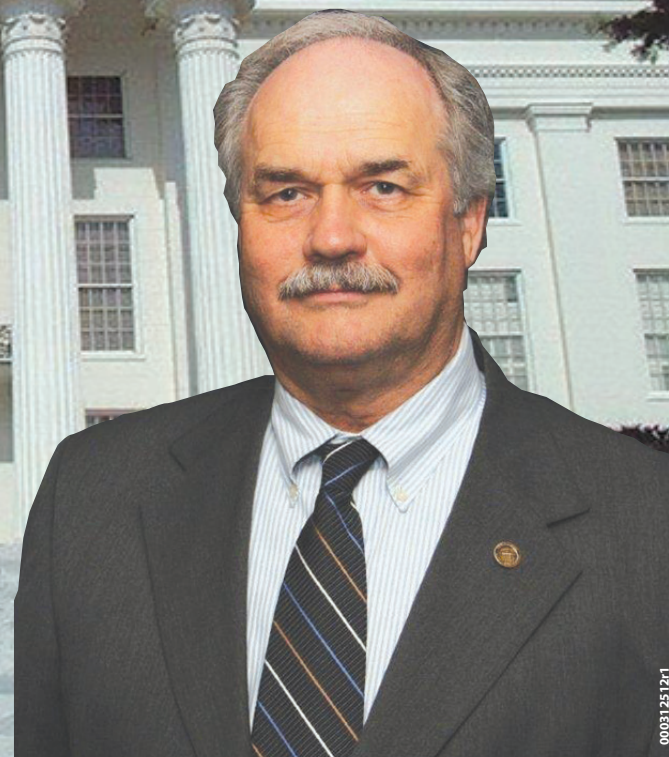


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Graduation guest etiquette

Graduation ceremonies celebrate the accomplishments of students who worked hard to earn their diplomas and degrees. As significant as these ceremonies can be, they also tend to be lengthy, which can make guests uncomfortable and antsy.

Etiquette is important at graduation ceremonies, and that goes for graduates as well as their guests. Everyone receiving a degree during a graduation ceremony worked hard to do so, and it's important that guests adhere to proper etiquette so every graduate can enjoy their well-deserved moment in the sun.

• **RSVP as soon as possible.** Graduates are typically allocated a predetermined number of tickets to their graduation ceremonies. Some may wish to invite more people than their allotment allows, so RSVP as soon as possible after receiving an invitation. If you can't make it, this will open up

a spot for grads to invite another loved one in your place.

• **Arrive early.** Guests should aim to arrive to the ceremony early, as traffic tends to increase the closer it gets to the start of the ceremony. Arriving early ensures guests will find parking, and it saves them the trouble of asking guests who have already arrived to stand up so they can get to their seats. In addition, late arrivals may make it difficult for fellow guests to hear their loved one's named called.

• **Don't celebrate too loudly.** Graduates' names tend to be read aloud rather quickly, so guests should not celebrate too loudly when their loved one's name is called. Doing so decreases the likelihood that families whose loved one's named is being called immediately after your loved one will hear that name called. Save the loud, lengthy celebrations for after the ceremony.

• **Remain seated during the ceremony.**

Guests want to see the stage where the graduates are given their degrees, so they should avoid standing during the ceremony. Doing so blocks the views of those behind you. If you want to take photos during the ceremony, find a spot where you can do so without blocking anyone else's view.

• **Speak quietly during the ceremony.** Graduation ceremonies can last several hours, so it's all right to speak with fellow guests during the ceremony. But do so quietly and in a way that respects other guests.

Guests who adhere to certain etiquette during graduation ceremonies can make sure everyone enjoys the festivities and shows respect for the graduates and their families.



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Lance Ly
Reed Martin
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Elliott Scott
Sarabeth Smith
Jude Swiney
Henry Tran
Asa Warren
Gracie Whittington
William Wilson-Hueter
Christiana Wood

What's a good gift for high school graduates?

High school graduation is a significant milestone in the lives of teenagers. The moment a teenager receives a high school diploma marks the culmination of years of hard work, and many parents and extended family members reward that hard work with gifts.

The transition from high school student to college student or working professional is significant, and various items can help make that transition go as smoothly as possible.

Journal:

Graduates are about to start new chapters in their lives. Either a blank journal or one with writing prompts can help grads get their thoughts on paper to document both the many moments that will shape the next few years.

Mascot- or school-themed offerings:

If a high school graduate will be going on to higher education, then visit the college or university's spirit shop to purchase anything from sweatshirts to blankets to coffee mugs featuring a school logo or mascot.

New wardrobe:

Graduating means forging new paths, whether in a career or through additional schooling. Grads can look the part with several items from a favorite retailer.

Framed school photo or map:

A piece of artwork can evoke strong emotions of time spent on campus. Frame a black-and-white or sepia-tone print of the aerial view of campus, or opt for an official school tour map, which indicates

buildings and other points of interest. This could become a cherished keepsake.

Bedside organizational pouch:

Dorm life requires maximizing a small amount of space. An organizational pouch or pocket can keep essentials such as a tablet, book, reading glasses, and remote control close by and organized without taking up a lot of room. Some are designed to rest over a couch cushion or slide between a mattress and bed frame.

Automotive essentials:

Graduates will be facing all sorts of new expenses, so easing any sort of financial burden can help them in a big way. Vehicles tend to be major financial drains for teens and young adults. Prepaid cash cards, gas station gift cards, vouchers for car washes, and even gift cards to an automotive supply store can help graduates direct their funds elsewhere.

Travel gear:

Whether it's utilized during road trips with roommates or on those handful of occasions when students come home on holiday breaks, travel gear can make for a useful gift for new high school graduates. A sturdy backpack/duffel bag combo can be ideal. It's great for college students who might not be ready for more expensive luggage, and it can be ideal for high school students taking gap years to do some overseas traveling before enrolling in college.

Coffee machine:

A pot of fresh coffee can make late-night cram sessions or hours spent typing research papers into the wee hours of the morning more manageable. For students who will be living in crowded dorm rooms, opt for small coffee machines that don't take up much space, such as those that are traditionally found inside hotel rooms.

Television:

Parents want to imagine their college-bound teenagers spending hours holed up in the library. But college kids watch plenty of television, too, so a new television can make for a great gift that figures to get ample use.

Academic planner:

College course loads tend to be considerably more demanding than high school coursework. An academic planner can help new college students manage the rigors of their coursework by encouraging them to plan their days and weeks, ensuring no classes are missed and no assignments go unfinished.

Cash:

Cash can make a great gift whether a grad is heading off to college or entering the workforce. Cash can help college students pay for their books and help those entering the workforce purchase a reliable car that will help them get around.

Gifts for newly minted high school graduates can help them transition to the next phase of their lives, whether that will begin on a college campus or in the workforce.





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How to throw and enjoy a graduation party

Graduation is a momentous occasion for students that marks an end to many years of dedication to studies. Most people look back fondly on the day they received their degrees and diplomas. But often what is remembered most when a person graduates is the party that commemorated the event.

For parents planning graduation parties for their children, graduation season may be filled with nostalgia about their own childhoods and experiences. While parents can borrow from what they learned along the way, graduation parties for their kids should definitely focus on the here and now and what is important to the new grad.

Book early

Most schools host commencement ceremonies in May or June. With so many people planning parties around the same time, venues and vendors will be snatched up quickly. As soon as you learn the graduation date, reserve a party space and contact caterers, florists, entertainment, or other vendors who will be used for the event.

Host an open house party

An open house party enables guests to arrive and depart freely according to their schedules so graduates can hop from one party to the next. This occurs over a long period of time (four to five hours is a good window) and the party does not follow

any strict schedule.

An open house party requires having food and beverages available at all times, so it's important to have an array of options that can be served room temperature or kept safe over ice or heat. Chips and dips, sliced vegetables and small sandwiches are good options. Crock and chafing dishes can be used to keep foods warm.

Prevent the temptation

Even if the party will feature a mix of students, friends and adult family, it may be safer to avoid serving alcohol. This way you do not run the risk of an underage guest sneaking an alcoholic beverage and leaving the party intoxicated. Remember, in some areas you can be legally prosecuted for permitting underage drinking to occur, so it's best to do whatever it takes to prevent such a scenario.

Pick a theme

A theme can make a graduation party even more enjoyable. Tie the theme into the grad's personality or future plans or go with a classic, such as a Hawaiian luau, which is fitting for outdoor events.

Hire a wait staff

One way to enjoy the graduation party is to free up time to mingle. Hiring a wait staff means drink and food service as well as clean-up can be handled by others.




Congratulations To St. Clair County 2024 Graduates

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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0003125121



Volunteer opportunities for recent graduates

During the months between graduating high school and beginning college, or between getting a university degree and entering the workforce, graduates may want to explore the personal growth that comes from volunteerism.

Volunteering provides various benefits. Some of these rewards include networking with an entirely different group of people. Volunteering also can help a person realize greater happiness by doing selfless acts for others, while they also can help one to realize a new passion. In the future, volunteering with an organization also may help with a student's job

search.

There are many arenas where young people can focus their volunteer efforts. Here are some ideas.

• **Animal shelter:**

Animal shelters rely on volunteers to help with their operations. They can be a good fit for anyone with a passion for animals and animal rights activism.

• **Religious groups:**

Churches, synagogues and mosques may have volunteer opportunities focused on community outreach or programs affiliated with local nonprofits.

• **Tutoring:**

Graduates can volunteer to tutor students in local schools or overseas.

Make graduation day comfortable

Graduation day will arrive before many students have a chance to pause and reflect on their time as students. The pomp and circumstance are deeply rooted traditions passed down through academia. If only comfort was automatically built into the graduation equation.

Most graduation ceremonies occur at the end of the school year when temperatures tend to be rather warm. For schools with large student bodies, the distribution of diplomas might take place outdoors on a football field or under a tent. Some ceremonies may take place in poorly ventilated auditoriums. That can make conditions less than comfortable for graduates.

Attire also can make grads uncomfortable. Graduation caps and gowns can be cumbersome, especially the

heavily robed and layered gowns that signify higher academia.

Finally, graduation ceremonies tend to be lengthy, which can only exacerbate any discomfort grads may feel.

Discomfort need not dominate come graduation day. In fact, students can take various steps to ensure graduation day is as comfortable as possible.

• **Wear something lightweight.** Layering a gown on top of heavy clothing can be a recipe for overheating. Dress accordingly for the weather that day and the venue. Remember, it's always possible to add a layer.

• **Stick to sensible shoes.** That short trek across the stage to receive the diploma will be watched by hundreds in attendance and possibly recorded for posterity. Avoid slip-ups by wearing comfortable, flat shoes

that are skid-resistant.

• **Bring some tissues along.** Reactions and emotions can run high on graduation day. This day is a milestone, and a few tears may be shed. Have tissues handy to catch stray tears.

• **Leave ample time.** Crowds will be descending on the school for the festivities. Traffic and parking issues are to be expected. Early birds will get the best parking spaces and will be around to hear their names called.

• **Stay hydrated.** Stuffy auditoriums or sun-baked bleachers can quickly make for an uncomfortable setting. While you shouldn't bring along a bag, purse or too many accessories, tuck a small water bottle under your seat to help you stay refreshed throughout the ceremony.

Focus on comfort during a graduation ceremony, as the entire experience should be one to savor and enjoy.



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Ideas for displaying your diploma

Graduation day is one of the proudest moments in students' academic careers. Diplomas are symbolic of hours spent honing skills and working on assignments and, ultimately, success in the classroom. High school diplomas represent an opportunity to go on to higher learning or a trade, while college degrees indicate young people are ready to begin their professional lives.

Many graduates are excited about the prospect of receiving their diplomas. Once in hand, the document can be put on display. The following are some unique ways to showcase diplomas at home or at work.

Framing

One of the classic ways to display a diploma is in a frame. Many businesses offer customized framing where the frame material and the matting can be chosen. Some

grads may want to include a photograph of the school or a picture of the graduate above the diploma. Graduates also may want to select a frame and mat that coordinates with school colors.

Create a shadow box

Consider displaying the diploma with other mementos from school. A shadow box is a large, deep display frame that can house items that are thicker than photographs or papers. Items such as a graduation tassel, medal or other award, a varsity jacket patch, or a program from a school performance or awards ceremony can be placed in the shadow box.

Create a photo wall

Display the diploma among other framed photos from school activities. This can elicit a trip down memory lane every time the wall is viewed. Some families may

want to display their diplomas together, especially if multiple family members attended the same school.

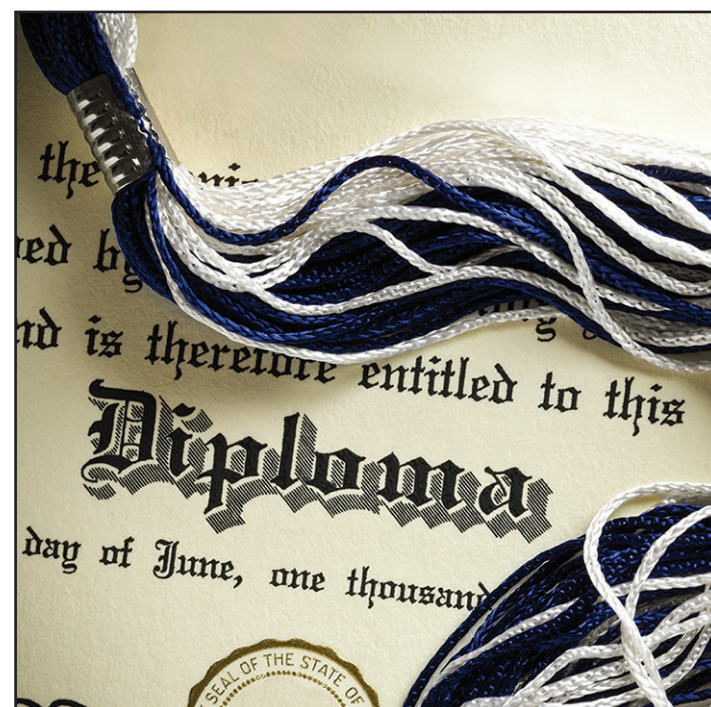
Make a work of art

Various online art vendors can turn the diploma into different works of art. For example, engravers can laser engrave the diploma onto a wooden plaque. Then the diploma can be displayed in one location and the wood plaque in another.

Place it under glass

Display the diploma beneath the glass top of a coffee table. When entertaining guests, the diploma can make for a unique conversation piece.

A school diploma is worthy of recognition. There are various creative ways to display these documents that reflect the hard work and success of their recipients.



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